

SATURDAY GAZETTE FEBRUARY 13

POLITICAL INFORMATION.

OF THE IMPORTANCE AND DUTY OF THE MINORITY.

The first duty of a minority is to become a majority.

A minority is just as likely to be right as a majority; and if it is, and if it persists in asserting its principles, and if its leaders are able enough to frame a practical and constitutional policy, and to meet their opponents' arguments before the public, rightly instructed, always favor the right! The long course of the anti-slavery discussion showed this. The first anti-slavery men were not practical politicians, but moralists; they demanded immediate and unconditional emancipation, because slavery was unjust and injurious, though at any price to be saved. These early leaders had but little direct influence on practical politics—for the answer to their appeal was that the Constitution forbade interference with slavery where it existed. What they did was to advertise to the people, with undivided courage and peremptory determination, that there was no slavery!

The political leaders of the minority, however, seized their opportunity, and at the anti-slavery time framed a policy upon the slaves' question which was both practical and constitutional. They said:

"We will not have slaves in the states where it exists—that would be unconstitutional."

A minority is contemptible, and must fail, when it has neither principles nor policy to oppose to the majority; but relies upon alibi of its opponents, or mere criticism of the majority's blunders. For in such a case, unless the majority is extraordinarily corrupt or inefficient, the people, seeing no principle at issue, will consider the minority's claims as trivial, power, out of a conservative spirit which is one of the most valuable qualities in a free people. Nor are they wrong in this; for if the majority have no satisfactory policy or principles to offer, their struggle is merely one for place or office, with a quick and immediate amanuensis to it; and this is the only safe arrangement for all parties.

But this able and excellent journal is a patriotic and statesmanlike manner, as well as Christian spirit, discourses on the aspects of our National cause, as follows:

"The Senate of the United States has undergone several considerable changes of late years, and, though still a majority officially, it is almost permanent, body than the House. Practically, it has proved to be more changeable. Members of the House come and go more frequently than those of the Senate, but the body as a whole preserves the same general traits—

Every man has in his own life follies enough, in his own mind trouble enough in the performance of his duties deficiencies enough without being curious about the affairs of others.

As the moon, whether visible or invisible, has power over the tides of the ocean; so the face of the loved one, whether present or absent, controls the tides of the soul.

If you like lips,

Five things observe with care:—

Of whom you speak,

To whom you speak,

And how, when, and where,

After Dinner.

A wife was engaged by the doctor to go home with her husband all the delicacies she could procure, as there was no prospect of his recovery. Said the loving spouse:

"Then what's the use of wasting dainty bits upon him, if they won't cure him."

As MAMMA—"I should be glad to accommodate you," said an Iowa damsel, to whom a young Bostonian had proposed, "but I am partially engaged already. There's me, though, who only thirty five, and wishes to marry again, and I think she is just now without an engagement."

The young man took the next train East.

A corn exractor that has never been put to the crow.

An intolerable bore having talked a friend nearly out of his senses, finally struck out on the "oyster," which he called "one of the most remarkable specimens of the animal kingdom." His friend interrupted him, and "closed the debate" with the exclamation—"the oyster! Ah, yes, the oyster is a glorious fellow! He knows when to shut up!"

A sailor wife had just received intelligence that her husband had perished at sea. She was visited by a neighbor who sympathized with her on her loss, and expressed a fear that she would be poorly off. "Deed will I," said the widow; but he did all he could for me—he's saved me the expense of his burial."

One of the most ingenious advertisements issued at San Francisco, during last summer, was the following:

"Ice, Ice, Ice,

If you want it pure and fine,

At a reasonable price—ice.

Follow no new dev-

But send to me in a tri-

I have the largest and best stock ever put up in this city."

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